(a) the conclusion of WTO discussions;

(b) the developed countries who have agreed to reduce subsidy in agriculture sector; and

(c) the date by which these developed countries have announced reduction in such subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN). (a) to (c) The Decision of the General Council of the WTO adopted on 1 August 2004 is an interim stage in the on-going negotiations on further commitments under the Doha Work Programme in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The *Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture* incorporated in this Decision contains elements and principles for reduction of trade-distorting subsidies in the agriculture sector which apply to all developed countries. The levels of reduction and the dates by which the reductions will apply will be negotiated hereafter. The Decision provides for continuing the negotiations up to the Sixth Session of the Ministerial Conference of the WTO scheduled to be held in December 2005 in Hong Kong, China.

Proposal by G-20 on agriculture

1952. SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the proposal made by G-20 countries in WTO meeting at Sao Paulo regarding agriculture; and

(b) whether Government have analysed the stand of America and European Union and their reaction to the G-20 proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has not held any meeting in Sao Paulo. On the occasion of the Eleventh Meeting of the United Nations Conference on-Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI) in Sao Paulo, on 12 June 2004 a Ministerial meeting of the G-20 on agriculture was held which did not present any proposal on agriculture.

(b) Government has been continuously analyzing the proposals presented , and the position taken, by various Members of the WTO, including the United States (US) and the European Union (EU). Since

the G-20 did not present any proposal at Sao Paulo to WTO Members, the issue of analysis of the stand taken and reaction of the US and the EU to it does not arise.

Fiscal Incentives in SEZs

1953. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to cease the mandatory eligibility condition of physical presence in the Special Economic Zones to qualify for the fiscal incentives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria laid down for the fresh investment and the minimum export turnover in SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) In the context of formulation of an integrated legislation for Special Economic Zones, suggestions have been received to treat Export Oriented Units meeting certain investment/export turnover criteria as virtual Special Economic Zone units. However, a final decision is yet to be taken on the contents of the proposed legislation.

WTO Talks on Agriculture

1954. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDYSIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Brazil, China and South Africa have expressed their Support for early resumption of WTO talks on agricultural subsides;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to impose countervailing duties on the subsidised agri imports from US and EU; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) After the